



Homeland
Security

March 21, 2005

News Release

ICE AND CBP TEAM UP TO ARREST CONVICTED PREDATOR

ST. CROIX, VI – A 45-year-old citizen of St. Lucia convicted of sexually abusing a minor was arrested here Wednesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents acting on a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) lead.

James Emmanuel, a lawful permanent resident of the United States was spotted by CBP officers conducting routine pre-clearance inspections at St. Croix's Henry E. Rohlsen Airport. CBP officers discovered that Emmanuel was a convicted sexual predator from Texas.

Emmanuel was arrested in October 1989 by Texas Police on charges of aggravated assault on a minor. He was sentenced to 10-years probation in March 2000.

Emmanuel has been placed in removal proceedings and is facing the revocation of his residency. He is amenable for removal under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) based on his aggravated felony conviction for sexually abusing a minor [section 237(a)(2)(A)(iii) and section 101(a)(43)(A)].

"We will use every tool at our disposal to protect our children from sexual predators like Emmanuel," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting ICE special agent-in-charge in San Juan. "This man violated the pact that he made with the United States when he abused an innocent child. He squandered the opportunity given to him by this country and we will pursue the revocation of this predator's residency status."

"Criminals and immigration status violators that think that the U.S. Virgin Islands is an easy gateway to the United States are mistaken," said Marcelino Borges, CBP's field operations director in San Juan. "DHS partner agencies continue its united front in restoring integrity to our country's immigration system by enforcing our immigration and customs laws."

Emmanuel is in ICE custody at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Puerto Rico awaiting the outcome of his case.

This arrest is part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive national initiative to protect young people from sexual predators. Operation Predator targets human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,000 individuals and deported more than 2,100 foreign nationals.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the web at www.ice.gov.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

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